

Laura Rae, Willimantic, February 8, 2011

My name is Laura Rae, a teacher who has limited physical abilities due to medical problems; thyroid removal, back and orthopedic ailments. I was employed full-time but released from my job at EO Smith High School due to employment cutbacks. While employed I contributed \$225-250 monthly for health insurance. I was unemployed for one year, working sporadic seasonal periods of time on limited income. When the unemployment benefits ran out in September, I was unable to maintain the Cobra premium that increased more than \$700 a month. At my income level, not even half my monthly income would cover this expense.

With much gratitude for Rep. Johnson who guided me throughout my ordeal, I applied for the Charter Oak Health Plan. However, Charter Oak Health Plan no longer operates on a sliding scale and determined that I would pay \$307 a month plus co-payments for ongoing treatments which consist of thyroid prescription, blood tests, and visits to the chiropractor and orthopedic. I currently have a medical debt of approximately \$1000 and do not want to incur more debt.

Once again Rep. Johnson came to the rescue and suggested I utilize Generations and have been thankful for that option. Generations has been affordable and I am impressed with the professional staff and timely appointments. On the downside, Generations has limited medical services that do not address all of my medical needs. I would like to receive the proper care my health needs require, i.e. onsite blood work, chiropractic, massage therapy or acupuncture. I would like affordable health care that benefits all of my medical conditions. The Sustinet Health Care Plan would allow me to pay for services based on my income and receive the treatments that I require. Please support better health plans for Connecticut residents, not only those who are below poverty level, but the growing working class that barely meets the basic needs of daily living and lacks the financial resources for when illness may strike. Illness is like a crap shoot, and a person should be protected from losing their home, car, or other property when illness strikes.